

The Times' Daily Short Story.

A SINGULAR VEHICLE

(Original.)

"Have you seen a white house with green blinds go by here today?"

Surely there was insanity in his eye. He was a thin little chap with a melancholy look about him. At any rate the man sitting on a wooden armchair before a book and ladder company's station of whom he asked the question thought so.

"No; I haven't seen a white house with green blinds go by here today. If I had I'd 'a' stopped it to give it some refreshment."

The questioner regarded the fireman intently for a moment, as though an idea were being born in his brain. Then he turned away and walked on. He had gone but half a block when out of a fine residence came a young man of rather sporty appearance, smoking a cigarette. The wayfarer addressed him:

"Have you seen anything of a woman with black hair and eyes and two kids, a boy of five and a girl of three, both looking like me, riding past here today in a white house with green blinds?"

The sporty young man took his cigarette out of his mouth and looked at the questioner with a blank stare.

"You mean a white horse and a green buggy?"

"No; I mean a white house with green blinds."

"My friend," remarked the sporty man, "I'll just bet you \$100 to \$10 that no family has ridden this way today in any kind of a house, and no family will ride down this street in a house tomorrow or next day."

So saying he turned on his heel and walked away. The man called after him:

"Take you."

Turning, the sporty man saw the other holding a ten dollar bill toward him. The former stood irresolute for a moment, wondering if he had better call an ambulance to take the man to Bedlam, but he was a "dend game sport" and would not go back on his bet even with a lunatic. He went into the house for funds; then as the lunatic proposed that the fireman he had interviewed hold the stakes the sporty man went there with him.

"This gentleman," said the lunatic, "bets me \$100 to \$10 that a woman and her kids haven't ridden by here today in a white house with green blinds or won't ride by here in a white house with green blinds tomorrow or next day."

The fireman and the sporty man retired for consultation, then returned, and the fireman agreed to hold the stakes, which were deposited in the chief's locker. The lunatic departed, and the fireman and the sporty man went to the telephone, where they reported the matter to the police station.

The consequence was that after telephoning the various asylums for the insane and not hearing of any escapes the inspector concluded the suspicious person to be a confidence man and sent a policeman to shadow him. The policeman who went on this duty, after seeing the fellow make several bets that a family had ridden or would ride within two days down the street in a white house with green blinds, decided to take him in. The man said that he would make it hot for the police, declaring that his wife would be worried to death about him. Then they asked him where he lived. He said he didn't know. The question seemed to quiet him, and he went to jail peacefully.

The next morning the prisoner was brought up on a charge of vagrancy. He was not known as a criminal, had done nothing criminal, and there was no other charge to be made.

"Ten dollars," said the judge, "and in default thirty days."

The prisoner pulled out \$10 and complacently paid his fine, much to the astonishment of the court, policemen and spectators. Then he went away, while the police authorities debated whether to rearrest him or let him go. They finally decided on the latter course.

The same afternoon the lunatic collected the persons with whom he had made bets, telling them that his wife and children would ride by in a white house with green blinds. They laughingly followed him, pretending to fall in with his idea, some of them having intended to turn a penny by his folly, others to return him his money eventually. The lunatic posted them on the sidewalk in the middle of a long block and asked them to wait a few minutes. Presently a man emerged from the next side street above and began to plant a windlass.

The bettors looked at each other, then with one accord started to see what was coming, the lunatic going with them. There on rollers was a white house with green blinds. In an open door was a woman pushing back a boy and girl.

"Hello, Molly," said the lunatic. "They didn't get you started yesterday, I see."

"No. But where on earth have you been? Working all night again?"

"No; in jail. You see, the police thought I was either a lunatic or a confidence man and ran me in. I asked a fireman if he'd seen you pass, and the way he replied gave me the cue how to make some money. I've got \$25 due me in bets or will have after you turn the corner. You see, I took all the money we had while we were moving to carry in my pocket, so I had all I wanted to put up the stakes."

The accompanying bettors looked at one another again, then quickly separated.

Some \$200 of the bets was paid. The rest were called off, the stakeholders declaring that the bets were made on a certainty.

EDITH F. BAKER.

JAPANESE ARMS AND AMMUNITION

WILLIAM H. BLUMENSTEIN in North American Review For July.

No European or American gunpowder plant is as complete, on as grand a scale, as thoroughly up to date, as convenient and practical as the Japanese government plant at Maguro, near Tokyo, for the manufacture of all kinds of ordnance and blasting powders. The broad brow of a hill, falling rather steeply down on one side into a swampy rice field, has been utilized for the purpose with consummate skill.

The plant is patrolled by a detachment of soldiers, who also assist at the proving tests on the well equipped grounds set apart for this purpose. Each manipulation in the manufacturing process has its full allotment of space, yet not a foot is wasted. The buildings are massive, suitable for the purpose, neat and well kept, but without a trace of anything superfluous. Along the main street, which runs the entire length of the factory grounds, is laid out a narrow gauge railroad, and overhead you see the wire rope power transmission connecting all departments. In spite of all this the picture is unmistakably Japanese, not only because of the turned up corners of the massive roofs and the graceful outlines of the supports of the transmission, which are of mason work, but because of a hundred little details in the treatment of each section. I will only mention the little cascade in which a streamlet falls down the hill, the waters of which are required for the manufacturing process. The land adjoining this hill used to be swampy rice fields. Now it is drained and reclaimed, and the buildings for the heavy machinery and presses are located in this section, reared on earthquake proof piles.

Military precision reigns supreme, and in spite of the working of powerful engines and all the humming of wheels and stamping of crushers and all the other noises of a busy industrial establishment, which turns out some five to six thousand pounds of finished material every day, and gives occupation to half a thousand workmen, the picture is a serene one, free from the snarl and dirt of labor. Free also from unpleasant memories, for there has never yet been an untoward explosion or fatality, such as blurs the records of many a similar institution under Caucasian management. Faithful devotion and strict obedience bring about unremitting attention to duty and thereby preclude disasters, which generally are traceable to somebody's negligence.

That Japan now produces her own saltpetre in artificial plantations is well known. Sulphur is found in abundance, as in any volcanic region, and the material for charcoal is also provided for. Gunalcum, which yields the best charcoal for powder purposes, does not thrive in Japan, but there are plenty of alders, which furnish the next best grade. Large groves of this tree cover the old lava beds on the slopes of the Fujiyama. The logs were treated according to all the rules of the art, but the wood was of so great a density, and its fibrous construction so intricate, owing to the extremely slow growth in the unyielding soil, that the charcoal made from it could be disintegrated and reduced to a granular powder only with the utmost difficulty and with but indifferent success. No sooner had the government been informed of this fact than a search was made throughout the land for something better than the alders of Fuji-san, and it was discovered that on the islands of Oku, on the northern shore of Dai Nippon, in the sea of Japan, there flourished splendid alders, of rapid growth and finely fibred, porous wood. Experiments proved this variety to yield an ideally good charcoal for the manufacture of powder. Immediately a forestry station was established on the islands to take care that the supply of this wood should never be exhausted. Here, then, we have the three chief ingredients of black and brown gunpowder—saltpetre, sulphur and charcoal—abundantly produced in the country.

The powder factory at Iwahana, which lies in the direction of Nikko, was built by the Japanese, without assistance from foreigners, after the model of Meguro, but on a larger scale. It is also well equipped with all the apparatus and machinery for the elaboration of the raw materials and the manufacture of ordnance powder, as well as all kinds of blasting powder for engineering and mining purposes. It supplies the Hokkaido—L. e., the northern provinces of Dai Nippon and the islands lying in that direction.

Udji, the powder works of the south, where the specialty is smokeless powder, has the very finest distillery for the alcohol required in the manufacturing process, I have, without any exception, seen anywhere. Here, also, is a complete plant for the manufacture of gunpowder, where the raw material of domestic or imported growth is picked, cleaned, dried and passed through the various complicated, and in many stages rather perilous, manipulations of nitration. The army of workmen move about with the precision of clockwork, under the eyes of numerous foremen, inspectors and superintendents, and accidents are almost and fatalities entirely unknown.

Three million yen (about \$1,500,000) have been expended in the construction and equipment of this plant. In times of peace about 400 men and 200 girls find here steady employment. All of the buildings are of framework, with cement floorings. The alcohol, by the way, is made from grain, corn, rice, wheat and barley, raised on the

THE DISCOVERER OF SEVEN BARKS

Was, thirty-five years ago, one of Germany's foremost physicians, besides he was a celebrated botanist and chemist. His discoveries were many and invariably successful. Perhaps his most important discovery was that of the great and popular preparation called Seven Barks—extracted from the bark of a specially grown Hydrangea plant. This bark grows in seven layers, each division possessing wonderful individual curative values. One acts as a gentle cathartic, another as an alterative, the third as a diuretic, the fourth as an expectorant—while the other three layers produce wonderful, upbuilding tonic elements.

Most 'All Disease

Emanates from the drainage system (the stomach, bowels, liver and kidneys). When one of these organs becomes clogged or congested the others naturally suffer in sympathy, and it requires a thorough cleansing and the restoration of all of them before each can again fully perform its natural function.

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LYMAN BROWN, Pharmacist, N. Y. City.

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numerous agricultural experiment stations, after American patterns, which are scattered over the fertile Hokkaido, in which the Japanese husbandman obtains valuable instruction in modern methods of farming. In every direction is manifested the ambition to make Japan independent of the outside world.

By far the most important of all establishments of this kind is the imperial powder plant at Itabashi, which is again located in close proximity to the capital. This is practically an experiment station where the merits of new inventions and discoveries are investigated and put to a practical test. It is of all plants the most complete, making every kind of ordnance powder—viz., black, brown and smokeless (grains, leaden, tube or macaroni, cordite, etc.)—for firearms of all sizes up to the largest. Its chemical laboratories and the apparatus for the numerous auxiliary processes and manipulations are most complete, practical and efficient. As a matter of course, it is seldom that a foreigner is admitted within the high gate. All the officials, from the director down, are natives, and concerning them I want to say that not only the chiefs of the various departments, but their assistants as well, are highly trained experts, each of whom has spent several years at European and American universities, acquiring a thorough mastery of his specialty and getting his mental horizon widened to the farthest extent, so that he might return to his country exceptionally well fitted for the position he was to fill. Scientists of the first rank, who anywhere else would be hailed as stars of the first magnitude, work here unknown to fame, satisfied to devote their matchless genius and knowledge to the welfare and the glory of their country, not with blind fanaticism, but with the enthusiasm of conviction, the noble fire of the idealist. The individual counts for nothing; the country, the emperor, for everything.

Meguro, Iwahana, Udji and Itabashi are under the superintendence of the war department, while the navy department is more especially supplied by the factory at Oji, whose specialty is smokeless powder for naval guns and the charges for the projectiles intended for explosion with lyddite effect. The establishment is situated a little to the north of Tokyo and is of very recent creation. It is planned on the very largest scale, and it is needless to add that here, too, are found all the admirable features embodied in the other plants.

In Tokyo itself is located the arsenal for small arms—rifles, complete with bayonets; small field guns and sabers for the cavalry. It is housed in the fortlike residence of an old time provincial governor or daimio, and the original moat and rampart that protected the estate in turbulent times are still preserved. The age of the place can be surmised from the venerable old sycamores that have grown on the very crest of the wall. The buildings lie in the center of an exquisite old Japanese garden, full of delightful rocks and picturesque vistas, fine old trees rising out of a mass of flowering shrubbery and mossy rocks, reflected in pellucid sheets of water through which goldfish dart in all directions, or velvety lawns, glittering cascades, graceful bridges over pretty streamlets.

The beautifully proportioned, wide halls, in which feudal lords once dwelt in state, are now filled with machinery, shafting and bolting, and the hum and rattle of mills and lathes, of piston and hammer, of gearing and saws. One section is given up to the manufacture of rifle barrels, all of small caliber. The blanks for these are mostly imported in the required length and size, so that they have only to be bored and grooved. In another section the rifle stocks are made; in a third, the small parts of the weapon are produced and assembled. Still another section furnishes the bayonets, and when the rifles are complete and adjusted they are taken to the proving grounds, where a corps of sharpshooters systematically tests each one. Those which prove to

be not absolutely perfect are returned to the factory to be righted; the accepted ones are stamped and sent to the magazines to be stored for future use. The capacity of the arsenal, in times of peace, is 500 complete rifles per day of ten working hours, with facilities for quadrupling the output by working day and night.

All this constitutes only one part of the establishment. There are a saber factory and a plant for the manufacture of ammunition used in rifles and guns, and the capacity of this is proportionate to that of the other sections. The heavy artillery guns (Arisaka's model), howitzers, mortars, long barreled guns and cannons for the navy and for coast defense, as well as the shells or projectiles for these, are cast at the arsenal of Osaka. Most of the big lathes and milling machines and drills, as well as the cranes and derricks for the handling of the huge pieces, are of Japanese construction, made after small imported models.

Osaka, the second city of the empire, which is often called the Japanese Manchester, lies on a rather shallow bay and is therefore accessible from the sea only by small, light draft vessels, so that no transoceanic shipping can be done from there. To facilitate the transportation of heavy castings and big guns a canal has been dug for the exclusive use of the arsenal, starting within its grounds, passing under the heavy rampart and going through a rather secluded section of the country to the sea coast.

A section of the grounds is given up to the harness and saddlery works and to the manufacture of bits and stirrups and all the other parts of the harness as used by the artillery and cavalry. In other words, these two branches of the army are supplied here with all their accoutrements.

GOWN GOSSIP.

Colored effects in lingerie are in favor.

Changeable taffeta makes charming shirt waist suits.

In figured material the fleur-de-lis is a favorite design.

Louise in changeable effects is one of the preferred weaves of the season.

Of mousseline de sole, with floral decoration and showing hemstitched edge, are the pompadour veils.

Stocks are fashioned from all sorts of material and in a bewildering variety of styles, but have one point in common—they are low.

Buttons are an epidemic in Paris just now. Not content with sewing them all over one's frock, the couturiers besprinkle hat and even parasol.

Rough finished pongees are much sought by fashionable women, particularly in the delicate shades such as pastel blue, heliotrope, reseda, biscuit and oyster white.—Brooklyn Eagle.

TRAIN AND TRACK.

The famous cog railway up Pike's peak, in Colorado, may soon be supplanted by an electric road, plans for the building of which are now under consideration.

There have been placed in service between Chicago and New York some new coaches that are unique in that the smoking room is a glass inclosed compartment in the center of the car.

The city of Naples offers a charter for a system of five different lines of railroads, of which three must be underground. The central underground station, it is said, will be 314 feet below the surface.

A new locomotive building for the Baltimore and Ohio weighs 320,000 pounds, has six pairs of driving wheels and a boiler thirty-eight feet in length and seven feet in diameter. It is estimated that this locomotive will be 50 per cent more powerful than any other ever put together.

ANIMAL TALES.

Brewer (Me.) people are staying in at night for fear of a three and a half foot turtle which has escaped from captivity and is said to be more dangerous to meet than a bulldog.

A beautiful jet black Honess has been added to the collection of animals in the Jardin des Plantes in Paris. Black lions are found only in the interior of the Sahara, and are scarce even there.

As Mr. Roberts was sitting down to dinner at Butler, N. J., he put his hand on something cold on the chair. Looking down he saw a copperhead snake. Grasping the reptile firmly about the neck, he carried it to the wood shed and cut off its head with an ax.

The Beaver's Dam.

The beaver's dam is constructed in exact accordance with the best principles of engineering and is always in width, both at top and bottom, exactly proportioned to the weight of water it is intended to support.

Postal Card Too Small

Mrs. A. T. Neal, of Maryville, Mo., Says:

"A postal card is too small to begin my praise of your wonderful preparation, Paracamp. My first experience with Paracamp was about one year ago; my little girl was very badly burned with hot grease. One of my kind neighbors recommended Paracamp and gave me what she had on hand, as we live in the country and could not immediately get it from town. The first application gave relief. We used about three bottles and the burns were healed up nicely, although they were very bad burns.

My little girl was playing and fell knocking the grease in her lap; she was burned on both legs from the knees almost to her hips, and in removing her clothing a great deal of the skin came off, leaving her legs perfectly raw. I have used Paracamp for a great many things since then, and never like to be without it in my house. I have quite a family and find it a great task to write, but I hope my letter will reach you in time, as I am a great friend of Paracamp. I could tell you more of its good works but guess this will be enough for this time. I am always willing to sound the praise of a valuable remedy."

This letter should convince all mothers of the necessity for keeping in their homes a bottle of Paracamp. This wonderful remedy is needed almost every day in the year. It not only relieves pain quickly but it heals all manner of wounds without leaving ugly scars. Get a bottle of Paracamp today, and if it fails to do what we claim for it and if you don't find it is the most useful remedy you have ever had in your home, we will refund your money.

All good druggists sell it in 25 cent, 50 cent, and \$1.00 bottles. The Paracamp Company, Louisville, Ky., U. S. A.

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D. F. DAVIS, "The Druggist,"

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A THOUSAND MILE WALK.

Better to Carry Message From Belleville, N. J., to Albany, Ga.

With a pet cat and a dog as companions, Peter Deighan, a well known character of Belleville, N. J., left at noon the other day to walk to Albany, Ga., on a wager of \$100 with the members of the North End club, from whose headquarters he started, says the New York Tribune. He will have to walk about 1,000 miles. Deighan is to deliver a message to Cornelius McGinnis, a former resident of Belleville, who runs a hotel in the southern city. He will have his expenses paid back to Jersey. Deighan should leave the town without a cent in his pockets, and is not to beg food or clothes, but may accept unsolicited gifts.

Deighan's companions were gayly trimmed with ribbons. The dog, Ike Snyder, is of the poodle variety, while the kitten, which is called Mollie Durkin, is only a few weeks old, but is expected to bring in considerable wealth for its owner, as it has seven toes on each of its feet.

Two years ago Deighan walked through every county in New Jersey and part of New York on a wager under similar conditions. He won the bet, but he did not get the money, as the man with whom he made the agreement died before Deighan reached Belleville.

Orchid's Great Freshness.

An Englishman visiting the St. Louis world's fair recently wore in his buttonhole an orchid that had been plucked nearly two months and was still fresh and green. He called his floral ornament an "everlasting buttonhole" and stated that it was the latest fad in London. The flower is a new variety of the orchid, which has the useful merit of remaining fresh for sixty days after being plucked.

Side Crease to the Trousers.

A feature of style said to have been introduced by King Edward is to have the creases in the trousers at the side and leg seam instead of back and front, says the London Tailor and Cutter. In London already a few west end dandies have adopted this plan, but as the effect of this innovation is to produce a thicker appearance to the leg we do not anticipate any general adoption of this fashion.

Jap Officers and Men Fare Alike.

The Japanese officers in campaign have exactly the same fare as the private soldiers, says London Truth. Marshal Yamagata himself, when commanding nine years ago in China, had no better.

SPORTING NOTES.

Mustard, 2:08½, has been a mile in 2:14½ in her work at Cleveland. She is in Fred Keyes' stable.

Dan Patch will attempt to beat the world's half mile track record at the Iowa state fair this fall.

The Milwaukee pacer Hazel Patch will be started at the early meetings at Cincinnati and Columbus.

Mark Mortimer of Fremont, Neb., has purchased from Nat Brown of Omaha the stallion Ignis Fatuus, 2:20½.

The Ohio half mile track campaigner, Gold Bug, 2:35½, will make his first start at the Columbus early meeting.

McLean, the St. Louis catcher, is beyond all question the tallest fellow playing baseball in the National league. Incidentally, he is a clever mitt artist.

It is predicted that Pittsberg, who recently released by Pittsburgh, will return to the National league next season as an outfielder. He is hitting the ball hard for Toledo.

Catcher Frank Bowerman intends to retire from baseball at the end of the present season and engage in the lumber business at Romeo, Mich., where he owns considerable timber land.

Pitcher Jack Taylor, St. Louis National, says the only thing to make him ever dissatisfied is to be called upon to finish a game that some other pitcher has started and fumbled away.

Joe McGinnity is doing for the New York Nationals what he did for Brooklyn in 1900, pitching twice as many games as ordinarily fall to the lot of a twirler, in the hope of winning the pennant.

Chinese Remedies.

The Chinese possess an enormous veneration for antiquity and, besides powdered deer's horns to promote longevity and tiger's bones to promote bravery, dose themselves with fossil ivory, fossil crabs and shells, ancient soot and water in which a few copper coins of an early dynasty have been boiled.

Friction.

Whenever there is friction there is heat. Hammering a nail rod until it is red hot and forging a nail without fire are feats of the blacksmith.

Adulteration of Coffee.

The presence of chicory can be detected by shaking a little of the suspected coffee in a winged glass of water. Coffee swims on the surface, and only very slightly colors the water, while chicory sinks and gives a deep red tint.

Glass Windows.

Glass was not used for windows until about A. D. 300.

GLEANINGS.

About 5,000,000 paper back novels are read annually in the United States.

Every year 5,000 tons of Kongo rubber are sold in the market of Antwerp. This rubber is gathered by natives, who get 50 cents a week and pay their own expenses.

The memory of John Adam Dagry, who is credited with having founded the shoe industry at Lynn, Mass., has been honored by the unveiling of a tablet at his grave.

"It is our conviction," says the report of the prison commissioners for Scotland, "that short sentences of imprisonment are not only useless for reformation, but actually harmful to the prisoners."

Arranged upon the walls in the executive offices in the capital building in Tahiti are the portraits of nearly all the Cherokee chiefs who have ruled since the time of John Ross, who was principal chief for forty consecutive years.

In recent European experiments corpses have been kept for a certain time in a bath of chloride of calcium heated to 123 degrees, then taken out and steeped for twenty-four hours in a cold solution of sulphate of sodium. The bodies are transformed into perfect mummies, which may be kept indefinitely.

Coin Dates.

Coins with dates referring to "Anno Domini" (A. D.) cannot be found bearing an earlier date than that of the fourteenth century.

An Odd Cure.

A powder made from a fossil shell known as "the devil's thumb" is regarded both as a cure and a preventive of whooping cough in many parts of England and Ireland.

The Niagara River.

The general depth of the Niagara river at the brink of the falls is four feet.

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